

[0026] What is claimed is:

1. A blind fastener comprising:

a mandrel and an elongate cylindrical body mounted on an elongate stem of said mandrel so as to extend co-axially about a central axis of said blind fastener;

5 said body having a pre-formed radially enlarged flange at one end thereof and a tail end at the opposite end for insertion through a hole in a workpiece;

said mandrel having a mandrel head in operative engagement with said tail end of said fastener for transmitting force thereto during setting of said fastener,

10 characterised in said body having two different, uniform external diameters and a radially extending shoulder therebetween, such that the external diameter of the body adjacent the flange is greater than the external diameter of the body adjacent the tail end and said body between said shoulder and said flange is at least partially encased in a resilient material.

15 2. A blind fastener as claimed in claim 1 in wherein said body between said shoulder and said flange is enclosed in a cylindrical sleeve of resilient material.

20 3. A blind fastener as claimed in claim 2 wherein said cylindrical sleeve of resilient material has an external diameter equal to or less than the outer diameter of said flange.

4. A blind fastener as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the external diameter of said body adjacent said flange is at least 1.4 times the external diameter of the body adjacent said tail end.

25 5. A blind fastener as claimed in any one of the preceding claim wherein said shoulder extends perpendicular to said central axis.

6. A blind fastener as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said shoulder is positioned between 25% and 75% of the length of said body remote from said flange.

5 7. A blind fastener as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the resilient material has a hardness of between 50 and 80 shore hardness.

8. A blind fastener as claimed in claim 7 wherein the resilient material has a hardness of between 60 and 70 shore hardness.

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9. A blind fastener as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the resilient material is one of a plastics material or a rubber material.

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10. A blind fastener as claimed in any one of the preceding claims comprising either a closed end or an open end blind rivet.

11. A blind fastener substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying illustrative drawings.